



# Kingston Monthly Update

*February 19, 2010*

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) is compiling a monthly update as an additional tool to provide the community with information related to TDEC's role in the ongoing monitoring and cleanup at the TVA Kingston site. We welcome feedback from the community regarding this report and its usefulness so we may evolve it to meet the community's needs. The newsletter will be available the middle of each month on TDEC's TVA Kingston Update Web site at [www.tn.gov/environment/Kingston](http://www.tn.gov/environment/Kingston). Interested parties may also request an e-mail copy by contacting [Ask.TDEC@tn.gov](mailto:Ask.TDEC@tn.gov) and including "TVA Kingston Monthly Newsletter" in the subject line.

## **SITE UPDATE FOR MEMBERS OF TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

On February 16, 2010, TDEC Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, EPA On-Scene Coordinator Leo Francendese and TVA Site Manager Steve McCracken updated a House and Senate joint conservation and environment committee of the Tennessee General Assembly on recovery operations at the TVA Kingston site. Representative Dennis Ferguson and Senator Ken Yager, who represent the Kingston area, were part of the meeting. A video of the meeting is available online at <http://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/videowrapper/default.aspx?commID=46>.

## **JANUARY 26, 2010 PUBLIC MEETING**

The department, along with EPA and the Tennessee Department of Health, took part in the quarterly public meeting hosted by TVA on January 26, 2010, at Roane County High School. TDEC's fact sheet distributed at that meeting is available on the Web site at [www.tn.gov/environment/kingston/](http://www.tn.gov/environment/kingston/) under the "Quarterly Public Meeting Fact Sheet" link.

The Department of Health and the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry discussed the Public Health Assessment, which is out for public comment until March 9, 2010. More information about the Public Health Assessment is available on the Department of Health's Web page at <http://health.state.tn.us/coalashspill.htm>.

EPA discussed air monitoring. When TVA changed labs in September 2009, the new lab did not conduct analysis of PM 10 and PM 2.5 in accordance with the EPA-approved Federal Reference Method. That data has, therefore, been rejected and TVA is no longer utilizing that lab. These deficiencies prompted an EPA-led evaluation of all the site's perimeter air monitoring measures. There are redundant air monitoring or "back-up" systems in place. The quality assured data from the time period in question, which includes TDEC's air monitoring data, indicates that air quality at the site did not pose a threat to public health. TVA is required to submit a root cause analysis and corrective action report to EPA and TDEC, which the department anticipates receiving soon.

TDEC personnel will continue to take part in public meetings and public availability sessions.

## **GYP SUM POND UPDATE**

On January 20, 2010, TDEC's Division of Solid Waste Management approved the Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) report submitted by TVA for the gypsum pond/disposal area, which is separate from the stilling pond. The CQA report is a third-party engineering report certifying the structure is built in accordance with TDEC's solid waste

permit requirements. The CQA approval letter is available on the Community Guidance section of TDEC's TVA Kingston Update Web page at

[http://tn.gov/environment/kingston/community\\_guidance.shtml](http://tn.gov/environment/kingston/community_guidance.shtml).

The approval of the CQA means that gypsum may now be stored in the gypsum pond/disposal area.

The flue gas desulfurization stormwater pond, also referred to as the gypsum stilling pond, may not be used until corrective action plans, including grading/compacting and installation of a liner, are implemented. As previously reported, this is necessary due to a loss of water from the stormwater/stilling pond, which was the subject of a Notice of Violation.

Corrective actions are currently under way. Wet weather temporarily delayed compacting and grading, which is the final preparation for the liner. The compacting work is now nearly complete. The gypsum pond and stilling pond are unrelated to the ash spill, but related to ongoing operations at the Kingston facility.



Grading and compacting work is nearly complete in the stormwater/stilling pond. Then, a liner will be installed.

### **WEATHER IMPACTS**

Steps are being taken to prevent additional wet weather delays in the drying and shipping of dredged ash. The ash needs a 28-30 percent moisture content for shipping. In January, 12 filter presses were added to the site to dewater dredged ash in order to meet that goal. As of this month, lime is now being added to wet ash to aid in the dewatering process. These additional processes will help prevent future shipping delays due to ash being too wet.

Cold weather necessitated the operation of two boilers on January 29-30. Due to snow and ice, TDEC was not able to get personnel to the site to view the start-up as we have previously. TDEC did require perimeter air monitoring. The initial results show no indication of deposition, and the department is awaiting final results.

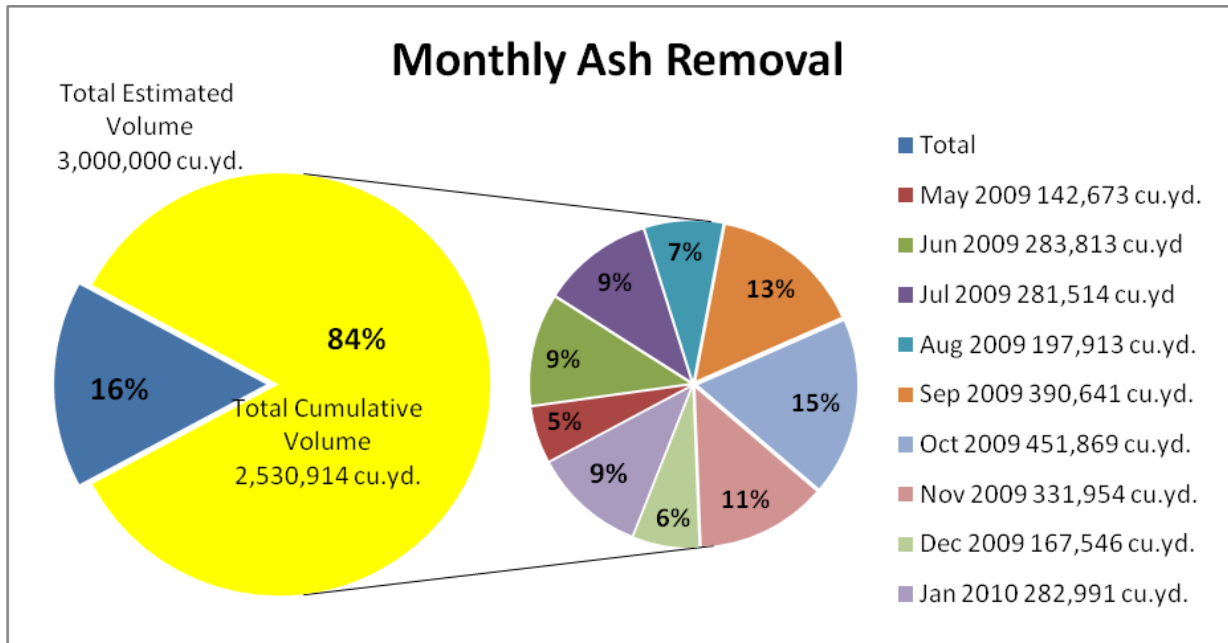
### **SITE STATISTICS UPDATE**

More than 2.5 million cubic yards of the estimated three million cubic yards of the ash released into the Emory River and Swan Pond Embayment has been recovered and removed from the water. River dredging operations and excavating from dry areas continues on-site. Approximately 1million cubic yards has been shipped off-site by rail for disposal in an approved landfill in Alabama.

#### **Time Critical Ash Removal**

<b>Goal</b>	= 3 million cubic yards by Spring 2010 at 15,000 cubic yards/day removal rate
<b>1/31/10 (YTD)</b>	= 2,530,914 cubic yards (1,970,885 from river and 560,029 from embayment)
<b>1/1-31/10</b>	= 282,991 cubic yards removed in 24 workdays = 11,791 cubic yards daily average

*Estimated completion of time critical ash removal is March 2010 based on 469,086 cubic yards remaining at a removal rate of 15,000 cubic yards per day (six workdays per week).*



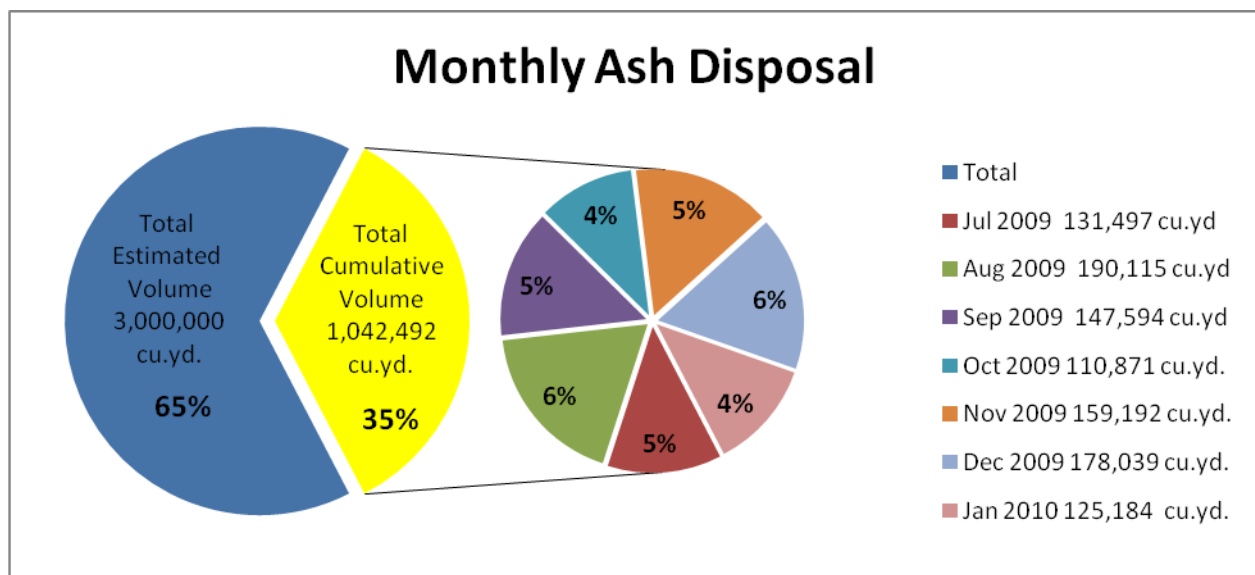
#### Time Critical Ash Disposal

**Goal** = 3 million cubic yards disposed off-site by Fall 2010 at 10,000 cubic yards/day shipping rate

**1/31/10 (YTD)** = Shipped 1,042,492 cubic yards (converted using 1.3 tons/cubic yards)

**1/1-31/10** = Shipped 125,184 cubic yards in 24 work days = 5,216 cubic yards daily average

*Estimated completion of time critical ash disposal is September 2010 based on 1,957,508 cubic yards remaining at 10,000 cubic yards/ day shipping rate (six workdays per week).*



## **LONG-TERM RECOVERY PHASE UPDATE**

As communicated previously, the Emory River ash removal is referred to as a “time critical” action under EPA’s Administrative Order. The next, or “non-time critical,” phase will focus on removing the remaining ash from embayments, sloughs, tributaries and ground surface and also closing the failed landfill. The Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) evaluates restoration alternatives to accomplish this important phase of the recovery. The EE/CA Report is available for review and comment on EPA and TVA’s Web pages at [www.epakingstontva.com](http://www.epakingstontva.com) and [www.tva.com/kingston](http://www.tva.com/kingston), respectively. The report is also available at the TVA Outreach Center at 509 N. Kentucky Street, the Kingston Public Library at 1004 Bradford Way and the Harriman Public Library at 601 Walden Street. The public comment period has been extended until April 5, 2010.

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

TDEC continues to attend and participate in the Long Term Recovery Committee and the Community Action Group meetings along with EPA and TVA. A schedule of upcoming community outreach events for the Kingston Ash Recovery Site, in which TDEC participates, is as follows:

March 4, 2010 – Community Advisory Group Meeting

March 9, 2010 – Public Availability Session

March 11-12, 2010 – TVA Environmental Symposium

March 16-17, 2010 – East Tennessee Environmental Conference – Meadowview Conference Center, Kingsport

March 17, 2010 – Long Term Recovery Committee Meeting

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to call TDEC’s On-scene Coordinator at the Kingston Recovery Site, Barbara Scott. You can reach her at 865-230-1211, or by email [Barbara.scott@tn.gov](mailto:Barbara.scott@tn.gov).

TDEC has additional information and monitoring data on the department’s TVA Kingston Update Web page at [www.tn.gov/environment/kingston](http://www.tn.gov/environment/kingston).